

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02439 171300Z

44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W

----- 021115

R 171215Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2392

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILI, SU

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL CHANGES IN SUDAN ARMY

REF: A. KHARTOUM 2371 (NOTAL), B. KHARTOUM 2395

1. REF A REPORTED SEVERAL IMPORTANT CABINET AND SSU CHANGES. AMONG THEM WAS APPOINTMENT OF NEW DEFENSE MINISTER, FIRST LT. GEN BESHIR MOHAMED ALI, WHO IS ALSO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES. REPLACING HIM AS CHIEF OF STAFF IS MOHAMED OSMAN HASHIM WHO HAS ALSO BEEN PROMOTED TO LT. GEN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SUDAN'S PERMREP TO ARAB LEAGUE CHIEFS OF STAFF, BRIG. GEN. ABDUL MAJID HAMID KHALIL, IS BEING BROUGHT HOME FROM CAIRO TO BE NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF.

2. IN ADDITION TO THESE TOP-LEVEL CHANGES, OTHER ARMY CHANGES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN PRESS. ACCORDING TO "SAHAFA" FOUR OFFICER WERE PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL AND TWO FROM COLONEL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL. TWO OTHER OFFICERS WERE RETIRED WITH PENSIONS. THESE WERE MAJGEN
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02439 171300Z

TAQ AL-SIR MAQBOUL AND BRIGEN MOUNIER HAMAD, WHO, WE

UNDERSTAND, REFUSED TO PRESIDE OVER TRIAL OF BRIGEN NUR
SAAD, ONE OF JULY COUP LEADERS.

3. COMMENT: NIMEIRI APPARENTLY IS WEEDING OUT THOSE
OFFICERS WHOSE LOYALTY AND/OR COMPETENCE HAVE BEEN
QUESTIONED AS RESULT OF DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING JULY COUP.
IN TQ AL-SIR'S CASE, FOR EXAMPLE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT NUR
SAAD APPROACHED HIM IN JIDDA SOME TIME PRIOR TO COUP
ATTEMPT. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT BEEN IMPLICATED IN COUP, HE
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED BY THIS CONTACT. SINCE
UNTIL COUP ATTEMPT, NUR SAAD WAS AN OFFICER IN GOOD STANDING,
HE PRESUMABLY HAD WIDE ACCESS TO MILITARY OFFICERS, AND
THEREFORE OTHERS MAY HAVE BEEN "CONTAMINATED" AS WELL.
NIMEIRI'S EFFORTS TO TIGHTEN CONTROL OVER MILITARY MIRROR
SIMILAR EFFORTS IN OTHER AREAS OF POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION
IN THE SUDAN. (REF B)
BOGOSIAN

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